

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 07654 110039Z

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 /025 W

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O 102229Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3730

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 7654

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: CODEL RIBICOFF/BAKER PRESS CONFERENCE

1. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM AT THE END OF THEIR VISIT TO ISRAEL, SENATOR RIBICOFF MADE SURPRISE SUGGESTION REGARDING THE SECRETARY. EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF AND THAT HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH HIS COLLEAGUES, RIBICOFF SAID IT HAD OCCURRED TO HIM THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER MIGHT WELL APPOINT THE SECRETARY AS A SPECIAL ENVOY FOR MIDDLE-EAST AFFAIRS. IT WOULD TAKE A NEW SECRETARY A YEAR TO GET TO KNOW THE SITUATION AND TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS AND ACQUAINTED WITH PERSONALITIES IN AN AREA WHERE PERSONALITY IS IMPORTANT. SUCH AN APPOINTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE USE OF THE SECRETARY'S KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.

2. OTHER SENATORS IN THE CODEL APPEARED SURPRISED AND ON QUESTIONING BY THE REPORTERS INDICATED THEY HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF RIBICOFF'S THINKING. SENATOR BAKER SAID HE SUPPORTED THE SUGGESTION. DEMOCRATIC SENATORS PRESENT ALSO SUPPORTED THE SUGGESTION, ALTHOUGH SENATOR CANNON SAID IT WOULD HAVE TO BE CARTER'S DECISION. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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